NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

WEEKLY STAFF NEWSLETTER
September 12, 1997

SHARING OUR STORIES, SHARING OUR VISION -- A CELEBRATION OF UNITY

Saturday, September 13 from 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Witness a vibrant display of drumming and dancing as the Red Sands Dance Company dazzles viewers with magnificent costumes in a performance celebrating Unity Month (September) and the anniversaries of the Pawnee Earth Lodge (20th anniversary) and the Webber Center for Indians of the Americas (10th anniversary). Unity Month is a state-wide appreciation of the many ethnicities that make up our community. The celebration marks the Museum's long-term involvement with Native American communities. Learn about the rich Native American histories through traditional storytelling, hands-on activities, demonstrations, and a display of local Native American arts and crafts. Questions? Call the Education Department.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

HAAS AND CREAMER RETURN

MacArthur Curator **Jonathan Haas** and Adjunct Curator **Winifred Creamer** (both Anthropology) have returned from a two-month field season in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Jonathan and Winifred worked with a group of students from Northern Illinois University (NIU) excavating a ten-room, eleventh-century village located on the banks of the Pojoaque River. The site is an important representative of one of the least-known time periods in northern New Mexico. Material collected from the site will be analyzed by students from NIU and the University of Illinois at Chicago. Jonathan also spent time at the Santa Fe Institute working on agent-based modeling of emergent patterns of cultural complexity.

ANTHROPOLOGY SUMMER INTERNS

Tom Braum, a student at Wintertour Training Program, worked as a conservation student intern and was supervised by Assistant Conservator **Holly Lundberg** and Head Conservator **Cap Sease** (both Anthropology). Tom spent eight weeks at the Museum learning conservation techniques as part of his training as a conservator.

Christina Hall and **Tammie Smith** worked in collections management on our Arapaho and Hopi collections. Their work included inventory and checking documentation. They were assisted by two college students, **Lindsay Rinder** and **Julie Schumaker**, both of whom are interested in museum careers. All were supervised by Collections Management Assistant **Lannett Jarrett** (Anthropology).

CCUC/ANTHROPOLOGY HOSTED JUAN MAYR

Juan Mayr, Distinguished Fellow at the MacArthur Foundation, lectured Thursday on "Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta in Columbia: An Approach to Bio-regional Management and Sustainable Development." One of Mayr's many accomplishments has been to formulate the Sustainable Development Plan for Sierra Nevada, as part of the Conservation Strategy for the eco-region. This has opened new paths for understanding and opportunities for peaceful solutions to local conflicts.

EPIC OF EVOLUTION CONFERENCE

The Field Museum, in conjunction with the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), is sponsoring The "Epic of Evolution Conference" to take place November 12-14, 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. This conference has been developed as part of the AAAS's Program of Dialogue between Science and Religion to demonstrate the compatibility of the findings of the evolutionary sciences with religious/philosophical reflections.

The conference is divided into eight sessions over the three days. Topics to be addressed include: i) the importance of understanding evolution, ii) the evolution of life, iii) the mechanics of evolution, iv) the evolution of humanity, v) the evolution of culture and religion and, vi) evolution and the human future. Each session includes both scientific presentations and religious and/or philosophical interpretations. There will be time for discussion between the presenters and the audiences at each session.

For more information, please contact **Mary Futrell** (X673) or write via the Anthropology department e-mail (anthro@fmppr.fmnh.org).

FIELD MUSEUM IN COLLABORATION WITH PATRONATO DEL MUSEO DE HISOTRIA NATURAL, A.C.

On Saturday, September 6th The Field Museum and the Patronato del Museo de Historia Natural, A.C. in Mexico City signed a letter of intent to collaborate on a broad range of programs in natural history. Among others, the agreement was signed by the Mayor of Mexico City, Oscar Espinosa Villarreal. Vice President of Academic Affairs **Peter Crane** signed on behalf of The Field Museum. The agreement acknowledges both institutions' goals to build knowledge and understanding about the diversity and inter-connections in nature.

FIELD MUSEUM RESEARCH ON THE COVER OF NATURE

The cover of the September 4 issue of ***Nature*** features a photo of *Anthoceros* (hornwort) and the review article by Paul Kenrick and **Peter Crane** entitled "The origin and early diversification of plants on land." In their article, Kenrick and Crane provide a summary of the evolution of land plants in the mid-Paleozoic, between about 480 to 360 million years ago, and how it affected the evolution of terrestrial organisms and global environments. They also discuss recent discoveries in land plant evolution and new directions for future research.

The 1997 United Way Campaign has Begun…

Dear Fielders:

Many thanks to all of you who turned out for The Field Museum's 1997 United Way Kick-Off Party, the event was a great success because of your support. For those of you who missed the fun, we learned about the history of The United Way and about the many agencies and programs funded by this crusade. We also had a raffle with cool prizes for all those in attendance: Tsavo Lion tee-shirts donated by the Museum Stores, tote bags from the Membership Department, hats and more tee-shirts from both the Education and Public Relations Departments, Sacred Arts of Haitian Vodou posters from exhibits and from the Photography Department keepsake photos of The Field Museum in its early days as well as photographs from when Princess Diana visited our Museum.

We all know what really gets Fielders to an event, the party would not have been complete without all the food and drinks we consumed after the informational meeting. We had every kind of coffeecake imaginable thanks to ***Jewel Food Stores*** accompanied by orange juice and coffee compliments of ***Liz Catering.*** I'm sending them very big **THANK YOUS** from all of us!!!

The best part of the Kick-Off Party for myself was when a few people from our Museum approached me and shared their stories of how The United Way had helped them or members of their families in the past years. I am pleased and proud to be raising awareness about The United Way, especially knowing the positive impact it has had helping rebuild some of our coworkers lives.

By now you should have already received your United Way pledge forms, please take five minutes to read through the materials and if you have any questions ask a committee member or myself.

Realize that it is not what we give that matters, it is that we give. Know that every dollar raised is a gift to *our* community, all of the money raised here stays here.

Please turn in your pledge forms by Tuesday, September 23, 1997, which is the official end of the 1997 Campaign. As an incentive, if you turn in the pledge form to a committee member or myself, whether you choose to donate or not, by 5:00 p.m. Monday, September 15, 1997, your name will automatically be entered in the draw for a ***free parking pass*** donated by Human Resources.

I would like to thank *you* ahead of time for taking the time to learn about The United Way, by doing so *you* make a difference. In giving, we are taking a responsibility needed to build stronger communities while raising hopes and helping others reach their dreams, for this I applaud you.

Sincerely yours,

Annie Crawley
United Way Chairperson

DOCKET REPORT

The plans for the Museum Campus opening are proceeding and the group discussed special event management, fundraising, and the development of a Campus identity and a communication strategy to disseminate information about the Campus. Other issues reviewed by the group were attendance rates, building repair projects currently underway, progress on various campaign initiatives, scheduling and cost issues relating to exhibits and renovations during 1998 and coordination between the Museum and city officials concerning programs celebrating the Millennium.

The power outage on Friday, August 29 was the result of a faulty transformer. Fortunately, Com Ed responded quickly to replace the transformer and the Museum was able to resume normal operations over the Labor Day weekend.

On October 7, the Security Department and Safety Committee will sponsor a safety and security fair to inform us about personal and on-the-job safety and fire prevention techniques. Security expert J.J. Bittenbinder (you may have seen his humorous and informative presentations on "Oprah" and Channel 11) and representatives from the Chicago Fire Department will participate. On November 12-14, 1997 (9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.), Academic Affairs will host the "Epic of Evolution Conference;" the panel discussion will focus on the interface between science and religion in the context of evolutionary theory.

Thanks to everyone who provided information for the semi-annual report to the Park District. Please note that there will be no *Natural News* docket reports until the group meets next on September 19.

REMINDER: The Exhibits Department will be giving a presentation on our 1998 holiday show, **Swedish Folk Art: All Tradition is Change**, on Tuesday, September 16 from 10:00 to 11:30 AM in Lecture Hall Two. All are welcome - please check with your supervisor.

ROLLIN' ON RANDOLPH -- UPCOMING CONCERTS AT THE CHICAGO CULTURAL CENTER

Learn about the people who create the music ... their experiences, influences and memories. These programs are set in a conversational format, combining dialogue and spontaneous music performance. All concerts are free and begin at 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 27:	Audrey Morris and Dave Green (Chicago's top piano/vocal lounge performers)
Saturday, October 25:	Tatsu Aoki and Jason Hwang (Asian American jazz innovators)

The *Natural News* is edited by **Carolyn Klyce** in the President's Office. The deadline for all submissions -- in WordPerfect on floppy disk or via email to klyce@fmppr.fmnh.org -- is Tuesday at noon. Printed on recycled paper.

MUSEUM RECEIVES GRANT FROM INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES

The Museum received notification that it has been awarded $112,500 in general operating support from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Less than one in five of the more than 1,000 applications received were funded. This is one of the few grants that are awarded based on the accomplishments and plans of the Museum as a whole. Congratulations to all and thanks to everyone who contributed information. Special thanks to **Lori Breslauer** (Academic Affairs) who wrote the proposal.

BAGINE VISITS THE MUSEUM

On September 8 and 9, Richard Bagine, Director of Collections Management and Documentation at the National Museums of Kenya visited The Field to explore possibilities for collaboration in exhibits, education, collections and scientific programs. Thanks to all those who hosted Bagine during his visit!

BIELER BACK FROM THE KEYS

Associate Curator **Rüdiger Bieler** (Zoology) has recently returned from eight weeks of fieldwork in Florida. His joint project with Research Associate Tim Collins (Florida International University, Miami) continued with a quest for species needed for a morphological and molecular analysis of gastropod (snail) relationships. Most of the sampling took place in the southernmost tip of Florida, the Florida Keys, from the shallow mangrove flats in the Florida Bay (Gulf of Mexico) to the off-shore reefs of the Atlantic.

The calm seas and the length of the trip allowed extensive sampling at many stations, resulting not only in finding all originally targeted species, but also bringing numerous species to light that are new to the U.S. fauna. Tissues were immediately transferred to Tim's lab at FIU, where he and Tim Rawlings (a postdoc employed under Rüdiger and Tim's NSF project) are doing the sequencing work. Anatomical material is now awaiting further research in Rüdiger's histology lab at The Field Museum. All voucher specimens of this study are deposited in our collection.

The data gained from this latest survey and collecting effort will be used in a study of molluscan species diversity in the Florida Keys with Research Associate Paula Mikkelsen (American Museum of Natural History). Preliminary data show a tremendous biodiversity in this relatively small region, with already more than 1,100 marine molluscan species confirmed (850 of which are snails!). This effort, the first of its kind in the Keys, will not only provide much-needed baseline data for conservation efforts in the newly established National Marine Sanctuary, but also form the basis for more extensive zoogeographic studies in the Caribbean region.

Some time was also spent to dive and dredge for pyramided snails with graduate student Roberto Cipriani to obtain material for his dissertation research. Roberto also joined a collecting cruise of the Research Vessel "Bellows" in the Dry Tortugas in the Gulf of Mexico, in part revisiting the sites that he, Rüdiger, Tim and Paula had sampled during the first cruise earlier this year.

Funding for the activities was provided in part by Rüdiger's National Science Foundation research grants and a Visiting Scientist Award from the Smithsonian Marine Station in Florida.

THE WIDOWS OF FLORIDA

This summer, Adjunct Curator **Petra Sierwald** (Zoology, Insects) continued studies on the behavior of Widow Spiders in Gainesville and Ocala National Forest, both in central Florida. Two widow spider species were the focus of the investigations: Florida's endemic (and exceptionally beautiful) Red Widow, and the widespread Brown Widow. Individual nests were marked and visited every day to record the activities of the spiders and the interactions between males and females. The behavioral data will be integrated in ongoing projects concerning systematics and mate choice in this group. Petra used the opportunity to collect spiders and millipedes in numerous places with indigenous central Florida vegetation for our collections. The stay in Gainesville also included several days of work at the Florida State Collection of Arthropods. In July, Petra attended the Annual Meeting of the American Arachnological Society in Dickinson, North Dakota, chairing a lecture session on spier systematics. Petra also serves on the Executive Committee of the Society. Since the Society will co-sponsor the 14th International Arachnological Congress and the 22nd Annual Meeting of the American Arachnological Society to be held at The Field Museum in 1998 (with Petra as chairperson and host), the Executive Committee's discussions concentrated on the planning of the upcoming Congress. Changes were also made in the organization of ***The Journal of Arachnology***. Petra was promoted from Associate Editor to Editor-in-Chief, and two new Associate Editors (B. Suter, Vassar College, G. Miller, The University of Mississippi) were appointed.

NOON BALLOON

The first Noon Balloon presentation for the Fall of 1997 was delivered Tuesday September 9 by **Gary Merrill,** Adjunct Curator, Department of Botany, Field Museum. Gary discussed two aspects of his research. His first topic focused on his bryophyte surveys for the Illinois Rapid Assessment Program in conjunction with the Chicago Wilderness. In addition to documentation of taxa present today in each of the sites, Gary is integrating bryophyte records from the appropriate collections prepared in the 1850's, 1880-1915 and the late 1920's to assess long-term changes in species composition. Gary's second topic concerned his research on a fossil byrophyte of Late Cretaceous age, 80 mya, from a formation in Georgia. He reviewed attributes of comparative bryophyte morphology and discussed results of his preliminary cladistic analyses of 29 taxa and 39 characters. He also presented preliminary results of co-workers' analyses using molecular and morphological data. Although some divergent patterns were noted, the fossil taxa is clearly very closely related to the extant genus *Polytrichium*.

GREEN SHEETS -- Having a meeting? We want to help!

BUT *REMEMBER*-- whenever a Special Event or meeting is held in the Museum that requires our services, you must fill out a Special Meeting Notice (a.k.a. "Green Sheet"). This sheet must be given to us seven days prior to the meeting. ***Your assistance with this advance notification will assist us in assisting you.*** Without the advance notice (through a Green Sheet) you run the risk of us not being able to: set up tables and chairs, turn on the lights, welcome and direct your guests, set up audio-visual equipment, etc. We need to know in advance so that we can schedule our staff and schedule your meeting around other events that we have to support. Also -- please remember that we need to be notified of changes or cancellations. Thank you!

-- Public Services Departments (Audio-Visual, Housekeeping, Security, Visitor Services)